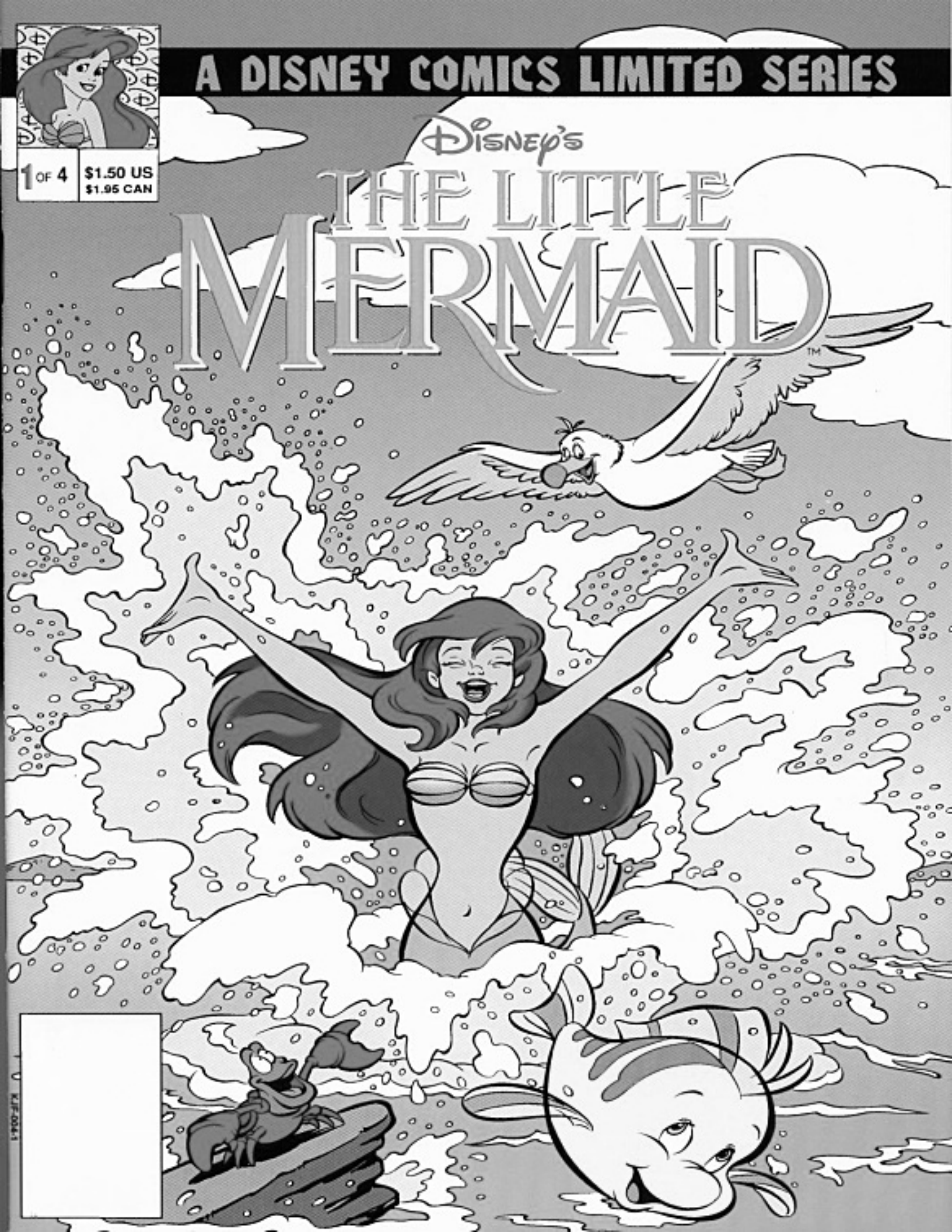
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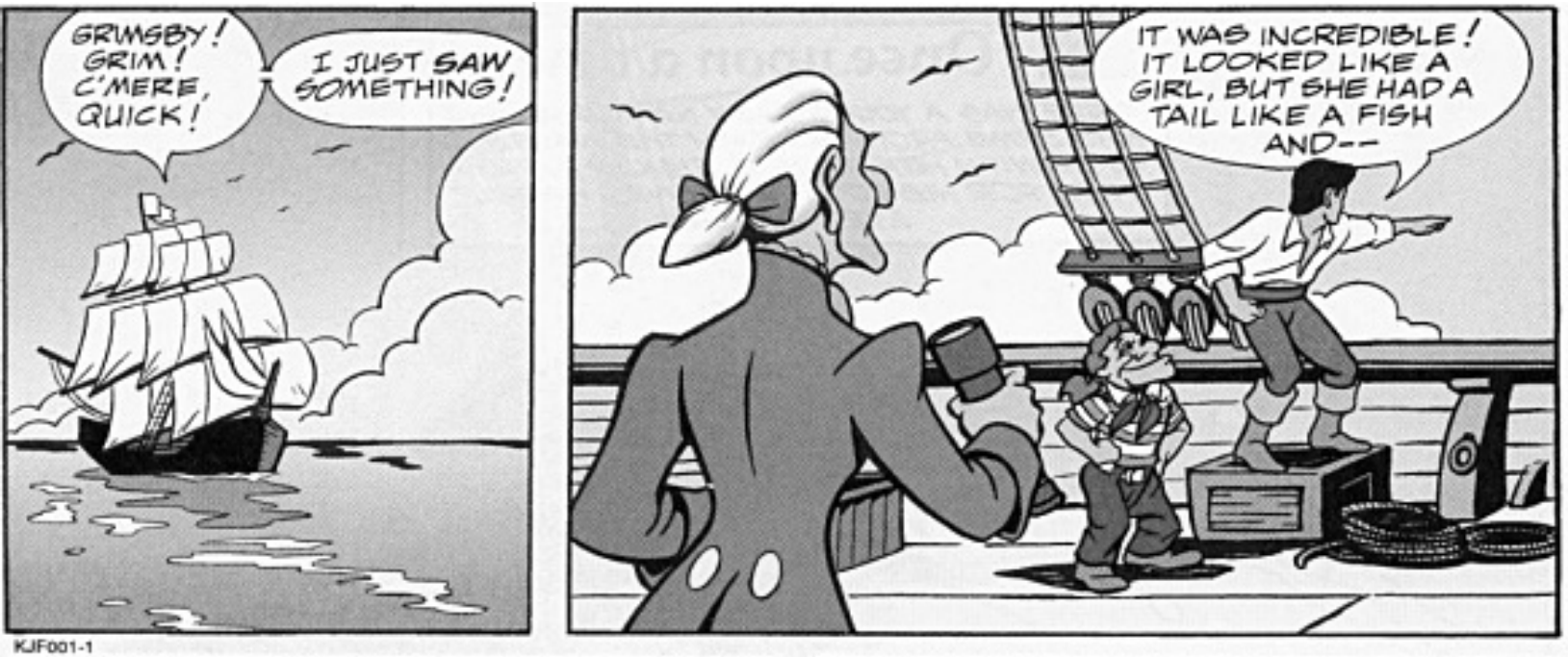

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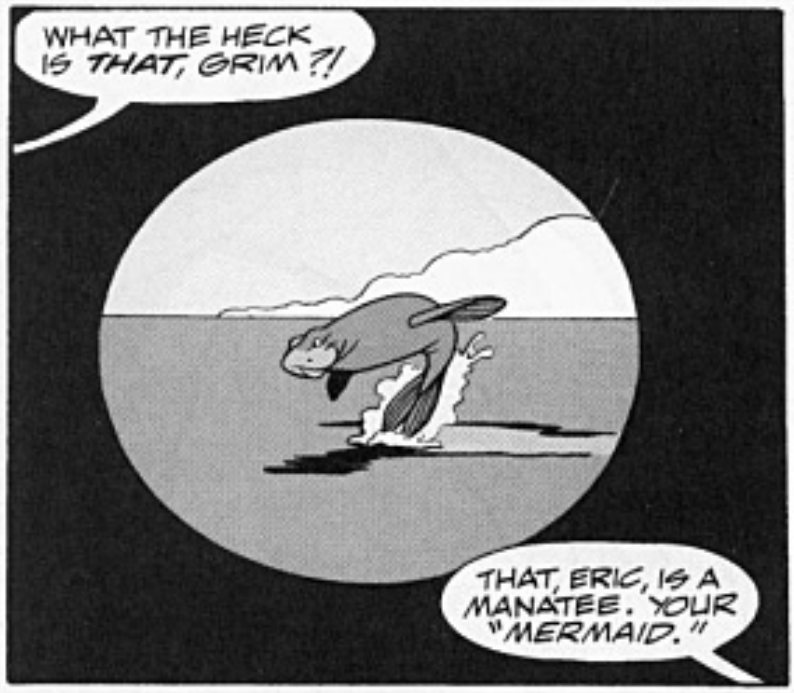
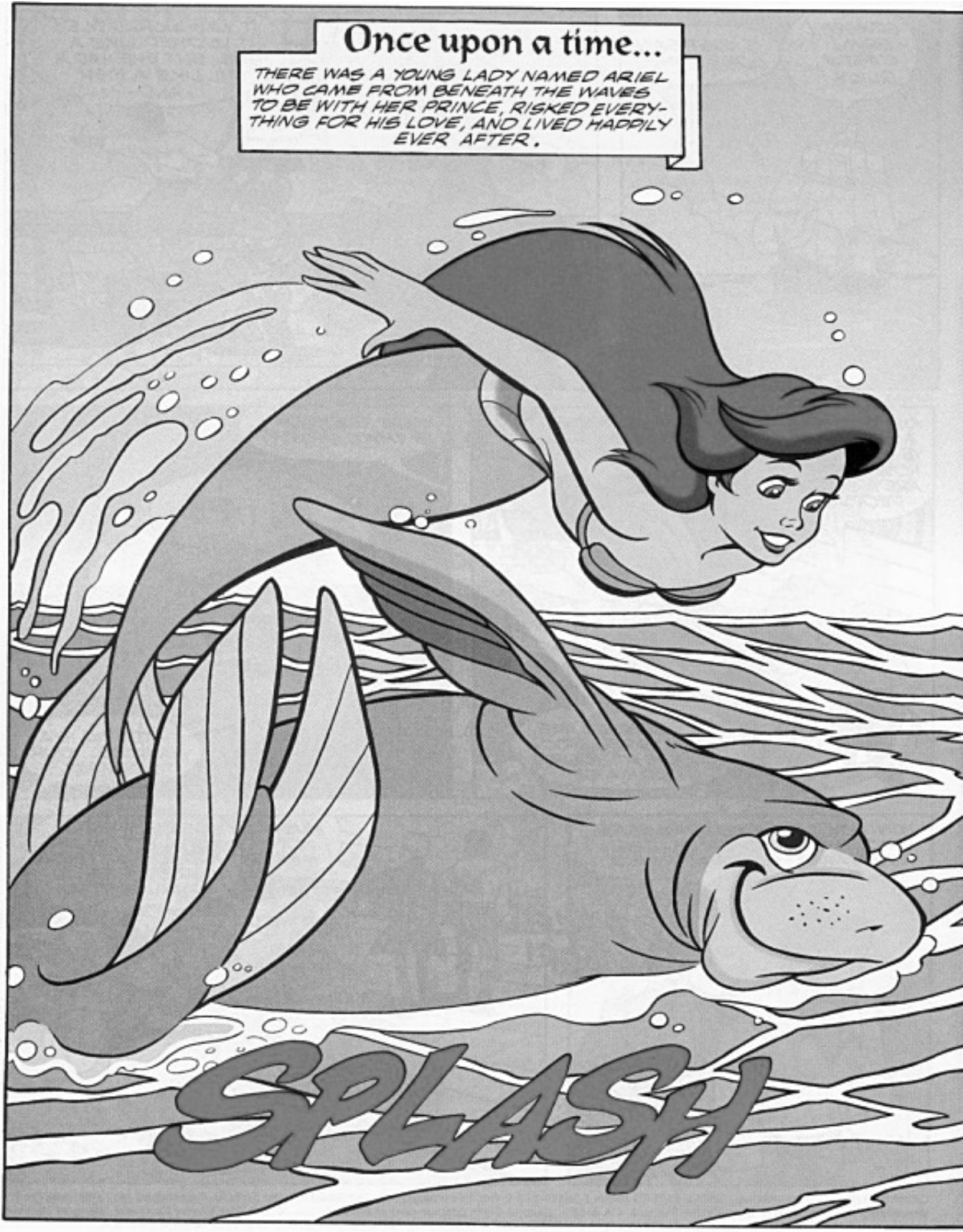
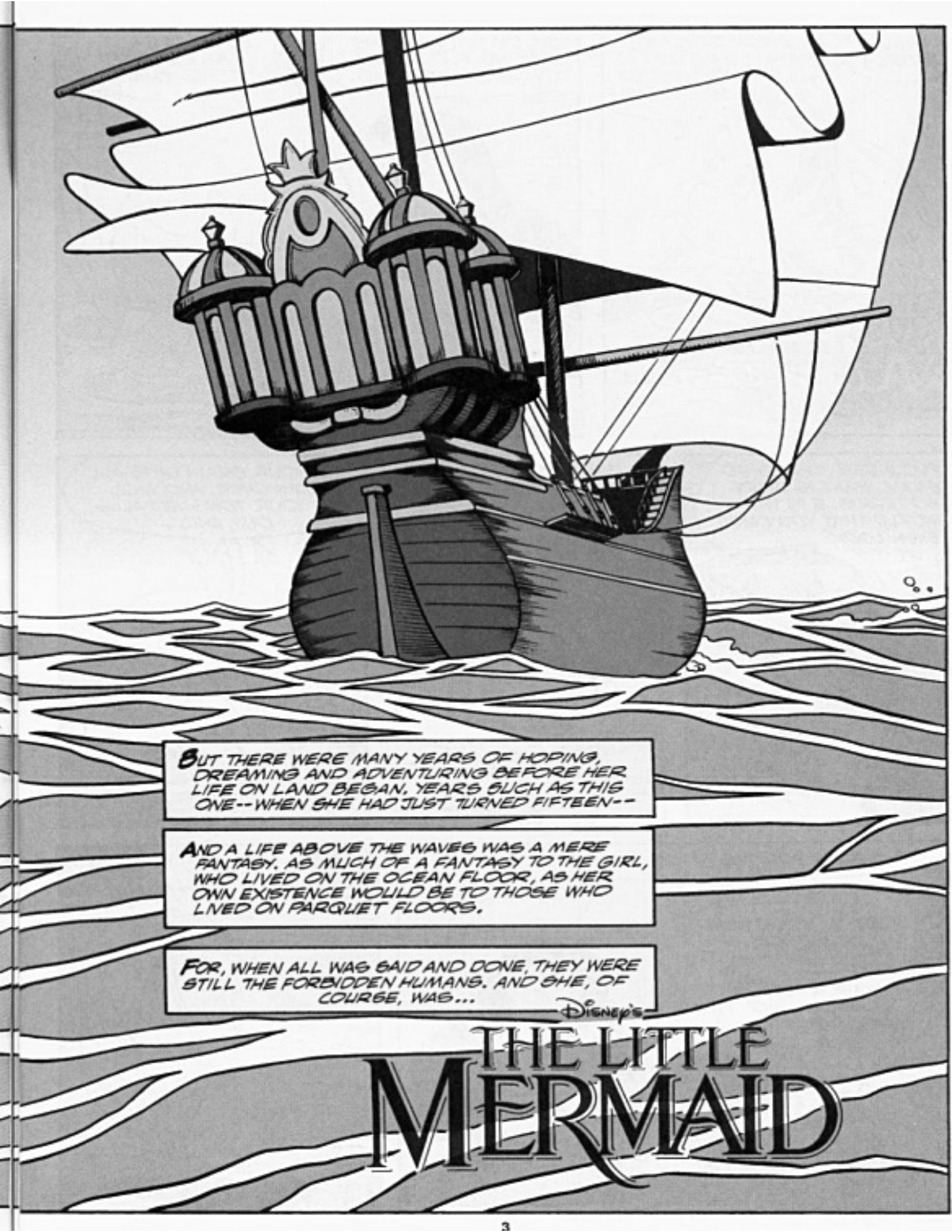
AYE, THAT WAS A MERMAID YE WERE SEEIN'! NOW THOSE ARE A GLORIOUS PEOPLE--
OH, RUBBISH. GIVE ME A MOMENT TO--
AH! THERE WE ARE. LOOK HERE, ERIC. LOOK AT YOUR MERMAID.

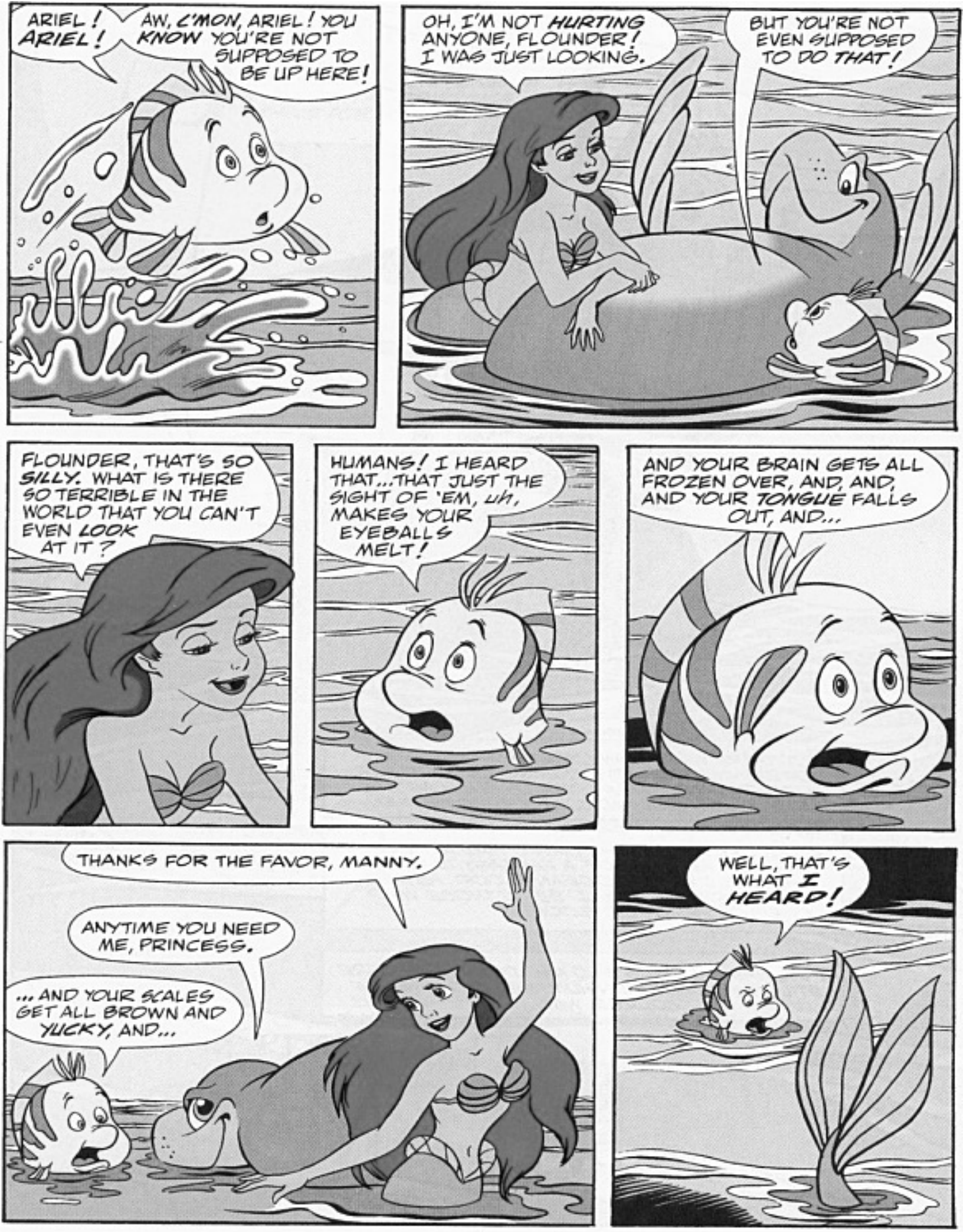


HUSH NOW, MAX!
COME NOW, ERIC. WE'LL GO BELOW AND CONTINE WITH YOUR STUDIES ON NAVAL HISTORY.
AND WE'LL HAVE NO MORE NONSENSE ABOUT MERMAIDS.
ARF! ARF!

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID LIMITED SERIES (ISBN 1-56115-247-1) No. 1 February 1992. Published monthly by W. D. Publications, Inc., a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521. Second Class postage paid at Burbank, CA. © The Walt Disney Company. All rights reserved. Nothing herein contained may be reproduced without written permission of The Walt Disney Company, Burbank, California. Printed in the U.S.A.


Once upon a time...
THERE WAS A YOUNG LADY NAMED ARIEL WHO CAME FROM BENEATH THE WAVES TO BE WITH HER PRINCE, RISKED EVERYTHING FOR HIS LOVE, AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
SPLASH!


BUT THERE WERE MANY YEARS OF HOPING, DREAMING AND ADVENTURING BEFORE HER LIFE ON LAND BEGAN. YEARS SUCH AS THIS ONE--WHEN SHE HAD JUST TURNED FIFTEEN--
AND A LIFE ABOVE THE WAVES WAS A MERE FANTASY. AS MUCH OF A FANTASY TO THE GIRL, WHO LIVED ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, AS HER OWN EXISTENCE WOULD BE TO THOSE WHO LIVED ON PARQUET FLOORS.
FOR, WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THEY WERE STILL THE FORBIDDEN HUMANS. AND SHE, OF COURSE, WAS...
Disney's
THE LITTLE MERMAID

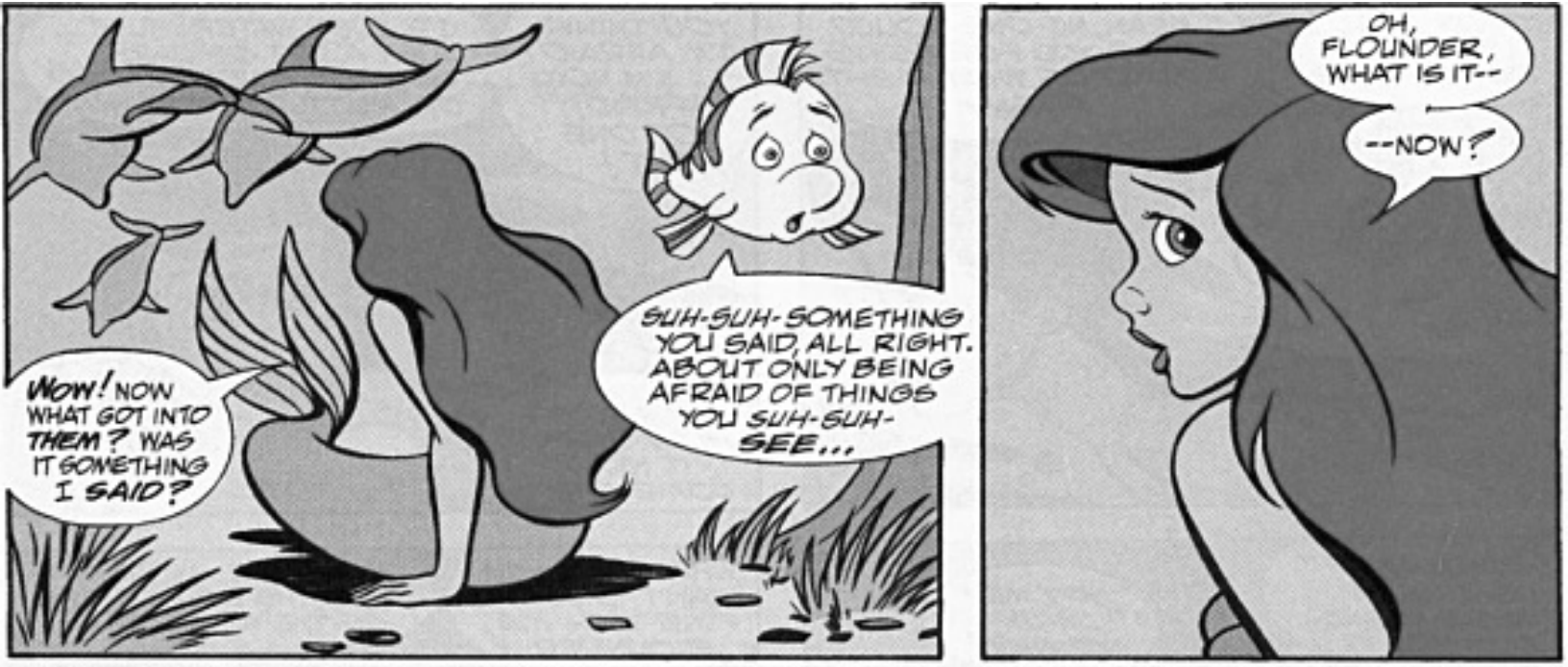

ARIEL! ARIEL!
AW, C'MON, ARIEL! YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE UP HERE!
OH, I'M NOT HURTING ANYONE, FLOUNDER! I WAS JUST LOOKING.
BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!
FLOUNDER, THAT'S SO SILLY. WHAT IS THERE SO TERRIBLE IN THE WORLD THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT IT?
HUMANS! I HEARD THAT...THAT JUST THE SIGHT OF 'EM, UH, MAKES YOUR EYEBALLS MELT!
AND YOUR BRAIN GETS ALL FROZEN OVER, AND, AND, AND YOUR TONGUE FALLS OUT, AND...
THANKS FOR THE FAVOR, MANNY.
ANYTIME YOU NEED ME, PRINCESS.
...AND YOUR SCALES GET ALL BROWN AND YUCKY, AND...
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD!

FLOUNDER, YOU CAN BE SUCH A GUPPY.
I'M NOT A GUPPY.
THEN DON'T ACT LIKE ONE.
"MELTING EYEBALLS." HONESTLY!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT--
YOU HEARD, I KNOW.
BUT I'M TIRED OF JUST HEARING THINGS. I WANT TO SEE THEM. EXPERIENCE THEM FIRST-HAND!
CAN'T YOU EXPERIENCE THEM FIRST-HAND BY LISTENING TO STORIES ABOUT THEM?
IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY, FLOUNDER.

I MEAN, I KNOW THAT DADDY IS SO STRICT ABOUT WANTING US TO STAY AWAY FROM HUMANS... BUT IT'S NOT FAIR.
WELL, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL GET TO LIVE UP THERE!
SURE, FLOUNDER. DREAM ME ANOTHER ONE.
DADDY'S NERVOUS ABOUT THE HUMANS, BECAUSE HE KNOWS SO LITTLE ABOUT THEM.
HE'S MADE RULES ABOUT ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING. IT'S LIKE WE HAVE TO CHECK WITH HIM BEFORE WE CAN DO ANYTHING THAT'S REMOTELY FUN!
BUT I'M SURE HE HAS REASONS FOR EVERY-THING HE DOES AND SAYS!
GOTCHA!
I THINK HIS REASON IS THAT HE'S AFRAID OF EVERY-THING THESE DAYS, FLOUNDER! BUT NOT ME!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!
WOW! WHAT A NICE WAY TO BE,
HEY! WAIT UP!!

WHERE IS DAT GIRL?!
SHE KNEW WE HAD REHEARSAL TODAY! WHAT DOES SHE T'INK SHE'S DOING--
--CAUSING ME GRIEF LIKE DIS?!
OH, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH ARIEL. SHE JUST GETS INVOLVED WITH THINGS AND, WELL... YOU KNOW.
DAT GIRL CANNOT GO THROUGH LIFE WIT' YOU MAKING EXCUSES FOR HER ALL DA TIME, ALANA!
SHE GOT TO LEARN TO STAND UP ON HER OWN TWO FINS! IF YOUR FATHER HEARS ABOUT DIS...
DADDY HAS BUSINESS AWAY, AND HE LEFT ME IN CHARGE. SO HE'S NOT GOING TO FIND OUT.
UNLESS SOMEBODY TELLS HIM, RIGHT, AQUATA?
OH, ARISTA, YOU WOULDN'T...!
WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE TO SHOW UP FOR CHOIR REHEARSALS, AND LITTLE ARIEL GETS TO DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS.
OR ARE YOU JUST AFRAID THAT DADDY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IN HIS ELDEST GIRL BECAUSE HE LEFT YOU IN CHARGE OF RUNNING THE KINGDOM... AND YOU COULDN'T EVEN KEEP TRACK OF ONE MERMAID?
ARISTA, YOU CAN BE SUCH A SEA URCHIN SOMETIMES.
WELL, DA SEA KING WON'T HEAR ABOUT DIS FROM ME... BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO COVER FOR DAT GIRL WHEN WE HAVE A PERFORMANCE AND WE SOUND FLATTER DAN A STARFISH! DAT'S ALL I GOT TO SAY!
I JUST DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD HAVE TO OBEY THE RULES, AND ARIEL JUST FLITS AROUND.
ARISTA CAN BE A REAL TATTLE FISH-TAIL, BUT SHE'S ALSO RIGHT. FATHER TRUSTED ME TO BE CHARGE. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE.
HOW CAN I BE A FUTURE RULER WHEN I CAN'T EVEN GET MY OWN SISTERS TO RESPECT ME?

ARIEL, WAIT! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO COME OUT THIS FAR!
THERE'S BOUNDARIES YOUR FATHER GET! OFFICIAL BORDERS! AND WE'RE ABOUT TO CROSS ONE! WE'LL BE OUTSIDE OF THE MERPEOPLE TERRITORY!
NOW THERE YOU GO AGAIN, FLOUNDER!
BORDERS ARE JUST MADE-UP LINES! LOOK DOWN THERE. DO YOU SEE ANY LINES?
WELL, AH... NO.
THERE, Y' SEE?
WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT IMAGINARY LINES? AM I AN IMAGINARY MERMAID?
ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE THINGS YOU CAN SEE, FLOUNDER!
YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, NOT CLOSE THEM IN FEAR!
RULES ARE FINE FOR WHEN YOU'RE LITTLE AND DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. BUT I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
JUST BECAUSE DADDY SAYS THIS AND THAT AND WHATEVER, DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T HAVE A MIND OF MY OWN? I'M OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE MY OWN RULES AND DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT AND WHAT I FEEL LIKE DO--
--IIIIINNNGGG!


WOW! NOW WHAT GOT INTO THEM? WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
SUH-SUH-SOMETHING YOU SAID, ALL RIGHT. ABOUT ONLY BEING AFRAID OF THINGS YOU SUH-SUH-SEE...
OH, FLOUNDER, WHAT IS IT--
--NOW?

OOOOOHHH, MY GOSH.

C'MON, ARIEL! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I MEAN, NO ONE WOULD BLAME YOU FOR BEING AFRAID OF THAT, RIGHT? RIGHT?
YOU THINK I'M AFRAID? I... I'M NOT AFRAID! NOT ONE BIT!
IT'S JUST WATER. JUST... JUST A LOT OF DARK WATER. I'M NOT SCARED OF A LITTLE WATER--
--NO MATTER HOW DARK IT IS, COME ON.
"COME ON?!" YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING IN THERE?!
NOT ME! UH-UH! NO WAY!
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO IS FINE WITH ME, FLOUNDER.
OF COURSE, WE'RE OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KINGDOM...
NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT BE LURKING AROUND HERE, WAITING FOR ME TO SWIM OFF AND LEAVE YOU ALONE.
BUT I WOULDN'T DREAM OF FORCING YOU TO--
OKAY OKAY OKAY!
OHHH! I'M GONNA REGRET THIS...
OH, YES, LITTLE ONE. YOU CERTAINLY WILL REGRET THIS... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU FIND OUT--
--JUST WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DARK CHASM.
HA HA HA HA HA!

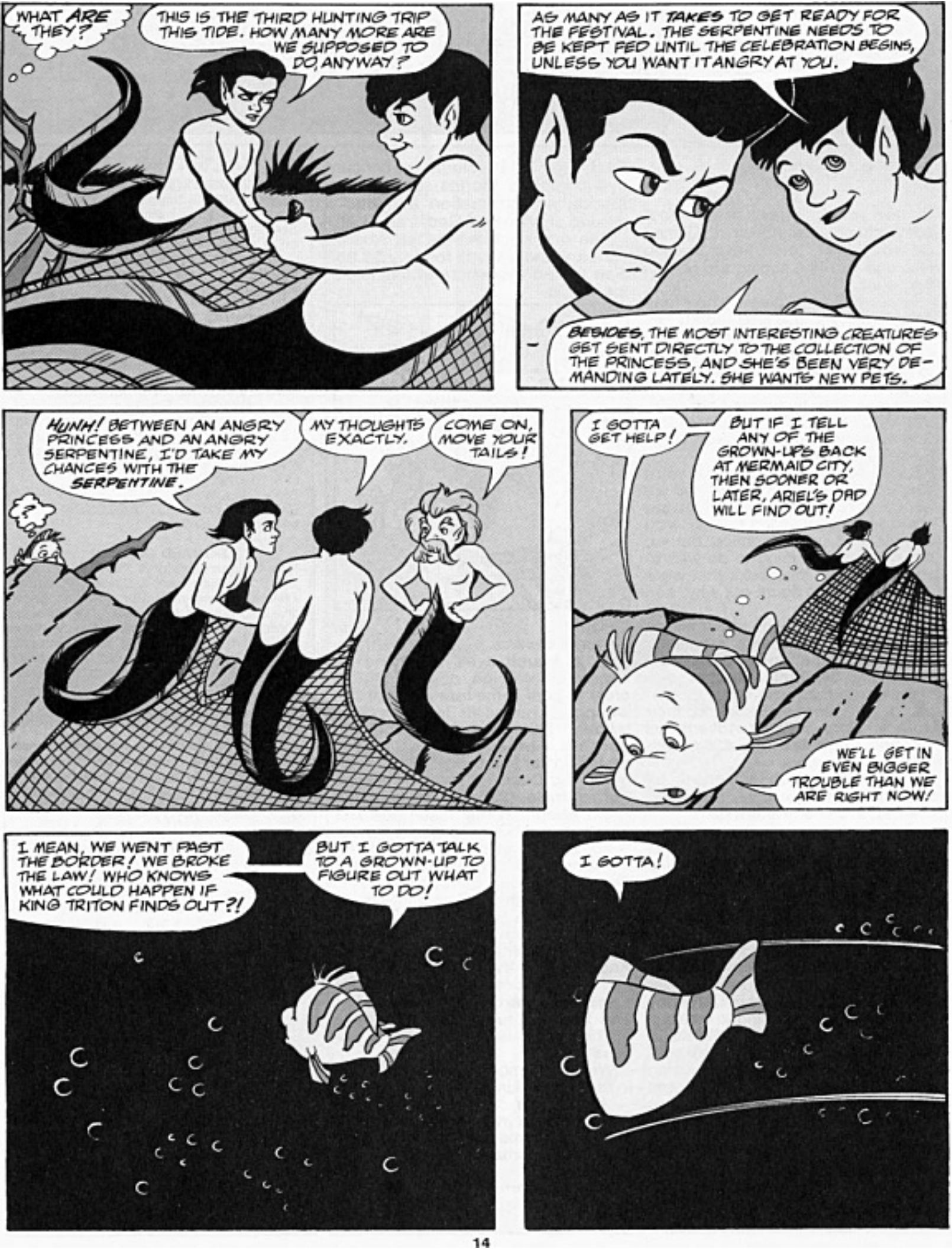
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! ALL SORTS OF CREATURES I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF, MUCH LESS SEEN! LOOK AT ALL THIS!
FLOUNDER, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ANYTHING REMOTELY LIKE THIS?
IN MY NUH... NIGHTMARES.
FLOUNDER, LOOK! IT'S A THINGAMABOB!
AW, ARIEL, WHATTAYA NEED ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE FOR? YOU'VE GOT NINETEEN ALREADY!
SO NOW I'LL HAVE TWENTY.
HOW DOES IT LOOK?
ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE FOR KEEPING YOUR HAIR IN PLACE?
OH, SCUTTLE WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE OF IT.
YEAH, WELL, SOMETIMES I WONDER JUST HOW SMART HE REALLY IS.
LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE!
YOU KNOW, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TAKE THE THINGAMABOB AND GO...
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER WANT TO DO, FLOUNDER.
HOLD ON! IT'S COMING LOOSE!
UNNHHHHH!!
AAAAHHHH!!

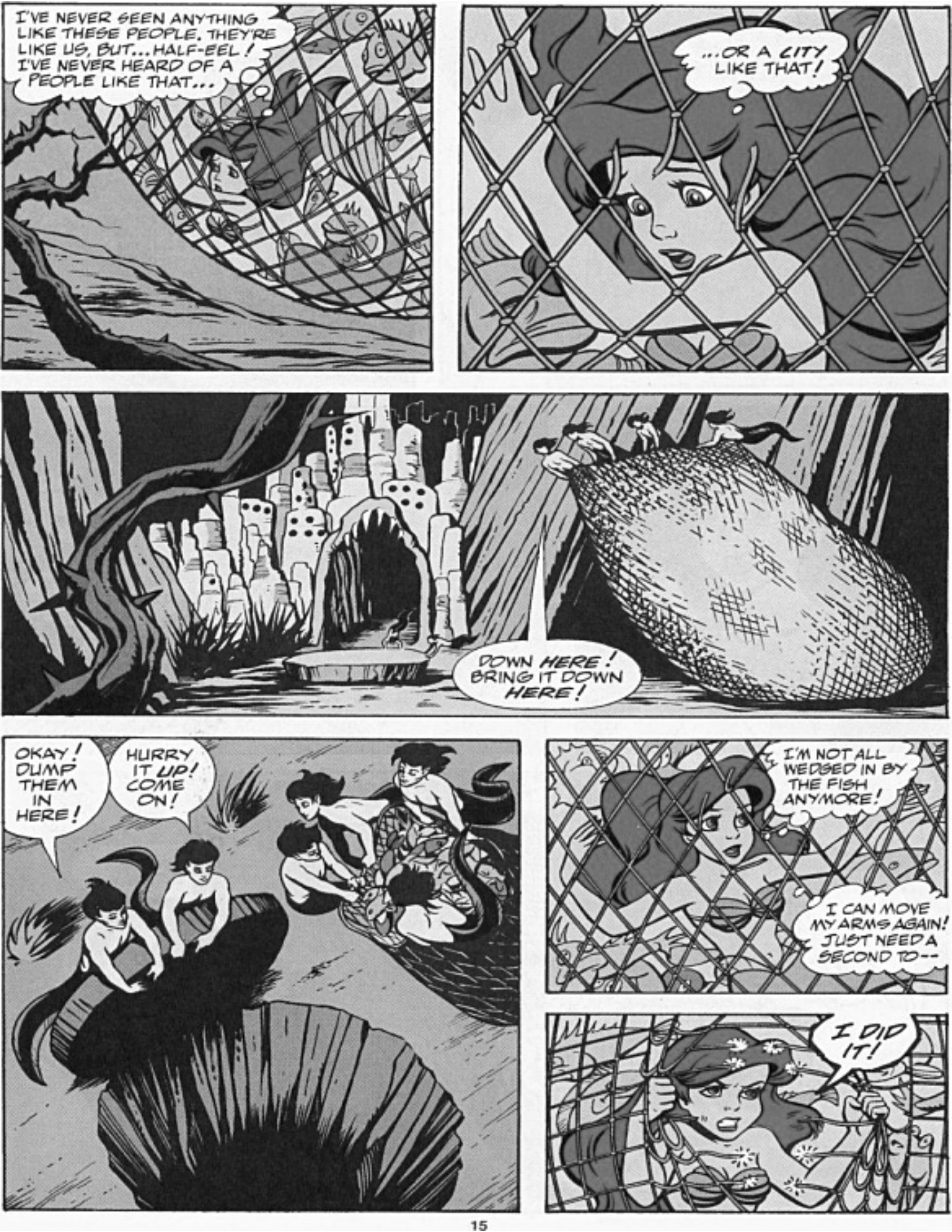
MAY... MAYBE NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO LEAVE, AT THAT.
YEAH. YEAH, I HEAR MY MOM CALLING. THAT'S IT. I KNEW I HEARD SOMETHING. LET'S GO.
RIGHT.
WHA-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE THEY'RE ALL SCARED OF SOMETHING THAT'S COMING AFTER THEM?! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT! MAYBE A WHALE OR--
ARIEL, WOULD I BE A GUPPY IF I SAID I THINK WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST?
NOT IN THE LEAST!
GOOD!
OOHHHH, MY--!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
KEEP GOING! DON'T LOOK BACK! JUST KEEP GOING!

CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE FOLLOWING

CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE PREVIOUS

WE'RE CAUGHT! WE'RE CAUGHT! ARIEL, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO? WE'RE GONNA GET COOKED AND EATEN! I'M TOO YOUNG TO FRY!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO...


WHAT ARE THEY?
THIS IS THE THIRD HUNTING TRIP THIS TIDE. HOW MANY MORE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, ANYWAY?
AS MANY AS IT TAKES TO GET READY FOR THE FESTIVAL. THE SERPENTINE NEEDS TO BE KEPT FED UNTIL THE CELEBRATION BEGINS, UNLESS YOU WANT IT ANGRY AT YOU.
BESIDES, THE MOST INTERESTING CREATURES GET SENT DIRECTLY TO THE COLLECTION OF THE PRINCESS, AND SHE'S BEEN VERY DEMANDING LATELY. SHE WANTS NEW PETS.
HUNH! BETWEEN AN ANGRY PRINCESS AND AN ANGRY SERPENTINE, I'D TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE SERPENTINE.
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.
COME ON, MOVE YOUR TAILS!
I GOTTA GET HELP!
BUT IF I TELL ANY OF THE GROWN-UPS BACK AT MERMAID CITY, THEN SOONER OR LATER, ARIEL'S DAD WILL FIND OUT!
WE'LL GET IN EVEN BIGGER TROUBLE THAN WE ARE RIGHT NOW!
I MEAN, WE WENT PAST THE BORDER! WE BROKE THE LAW! WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF KING TRITON FINDS OUT?!
BUT I GOTTA TALK TO A GROWN-UP TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO!
I GOTTA!


I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THESE PEOPLE. THEY'RE LIKE US, BUT... HALF-EEL! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
...OR A CITY LIKE THAT!
DOWN HERE! BRING IT DOWN HERE!
OKAY! DUMP THEM IN HERE!
HURRY IT UP! COME ON!
I'M NOT ALL WEDGED IN BY THE FISH ANYMORE!
I CAN MOVE MY ARMS AGAIN! JUST NEED A SECOND TO--
I DID IT!

OOOOPS...
UHH... HELLO.
EEEYAAAAHHHHH!!
HUH?
THEY'RE... THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME.
ME?!
UH-OH.
THERE! THERE IT IS! I TOLD YOU!
CATCH IT! CATCH IT!
IT'S GETTING AWAY!!
STOP IT BEFORE IT KILLS SOMEONE!!
"IT?" "KILLS SOMEONE?" WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM, ANYWAY?
MOMMY! MOMMY! MAKE IT GO AWAY!
THIS IS CRAZY! THEY'RE ALL ACTING LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF MONSTER!

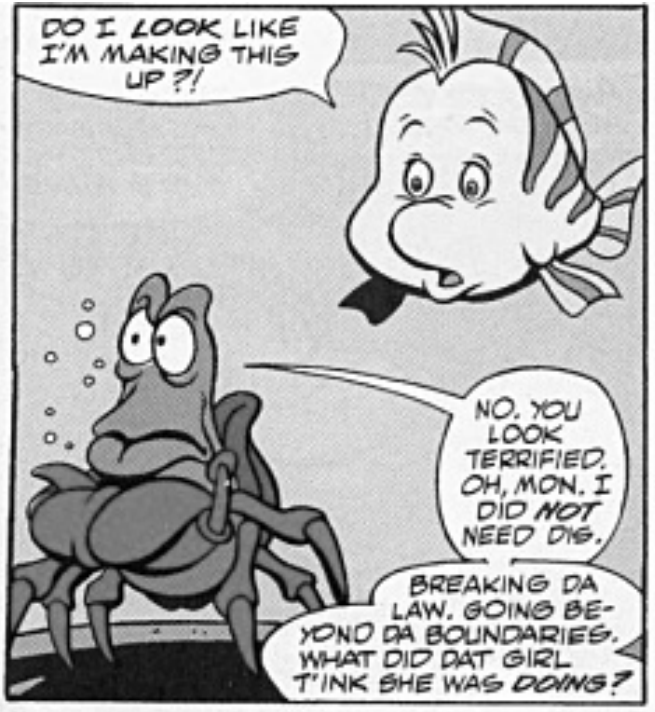
AND SUDDENLY, FROM OVERHEAD...
EVERYONE BACK AWAY! I'VE GOT HER! SHE'S MINE!
IT'S THE PRINCESS! DO AS SHE SAYS!

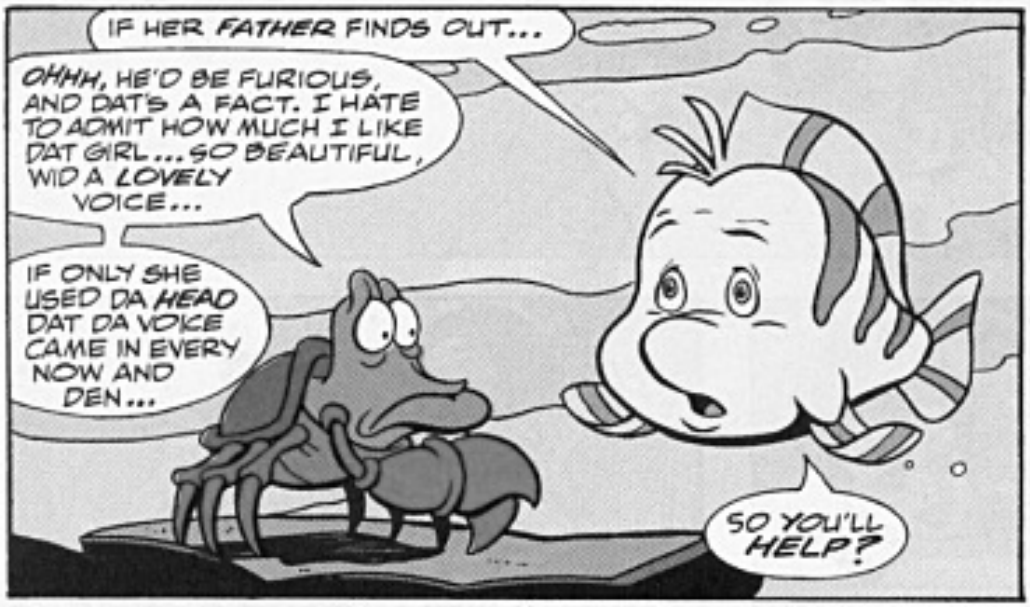
WHOEVER YOU ARE... LISTEN TO ME! IF YOU'RE REALLY THEIR PRINCESS, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ME!

AHAAHHH!
ZZZZZZZZZT!

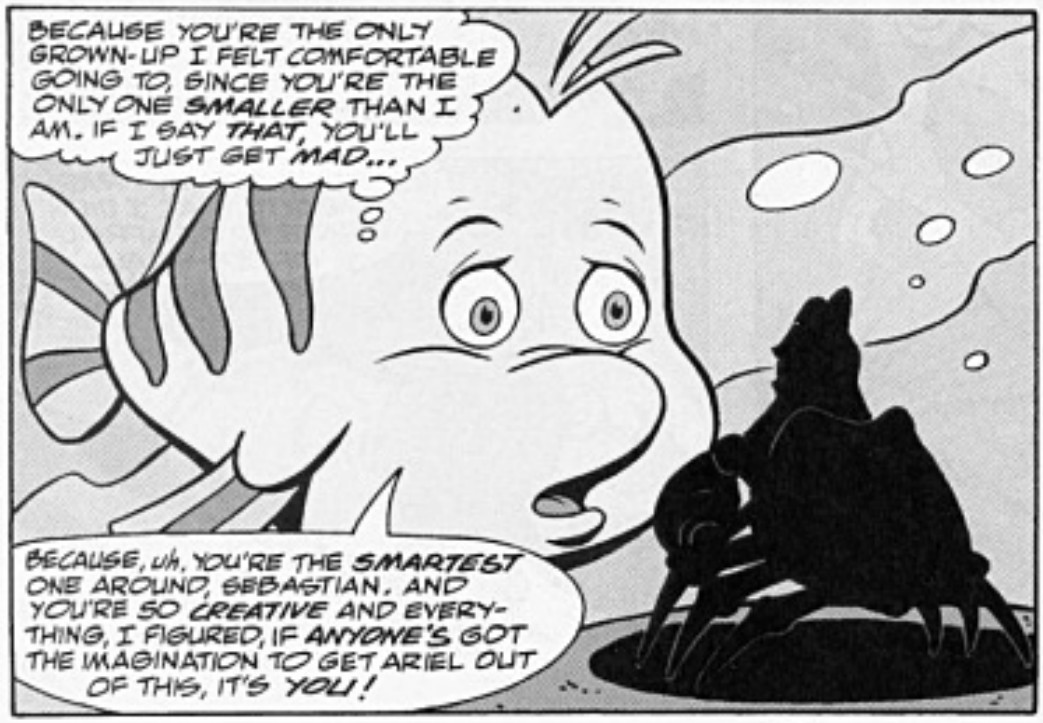
YOU'RE CERTAINLY RIGHT ABOUT THAT. I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF YOU AT ALL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE DIS IS HAPPENING! HALF-SERPENTS, YOU SAID?! DIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR STORIES NOW, IS IT?

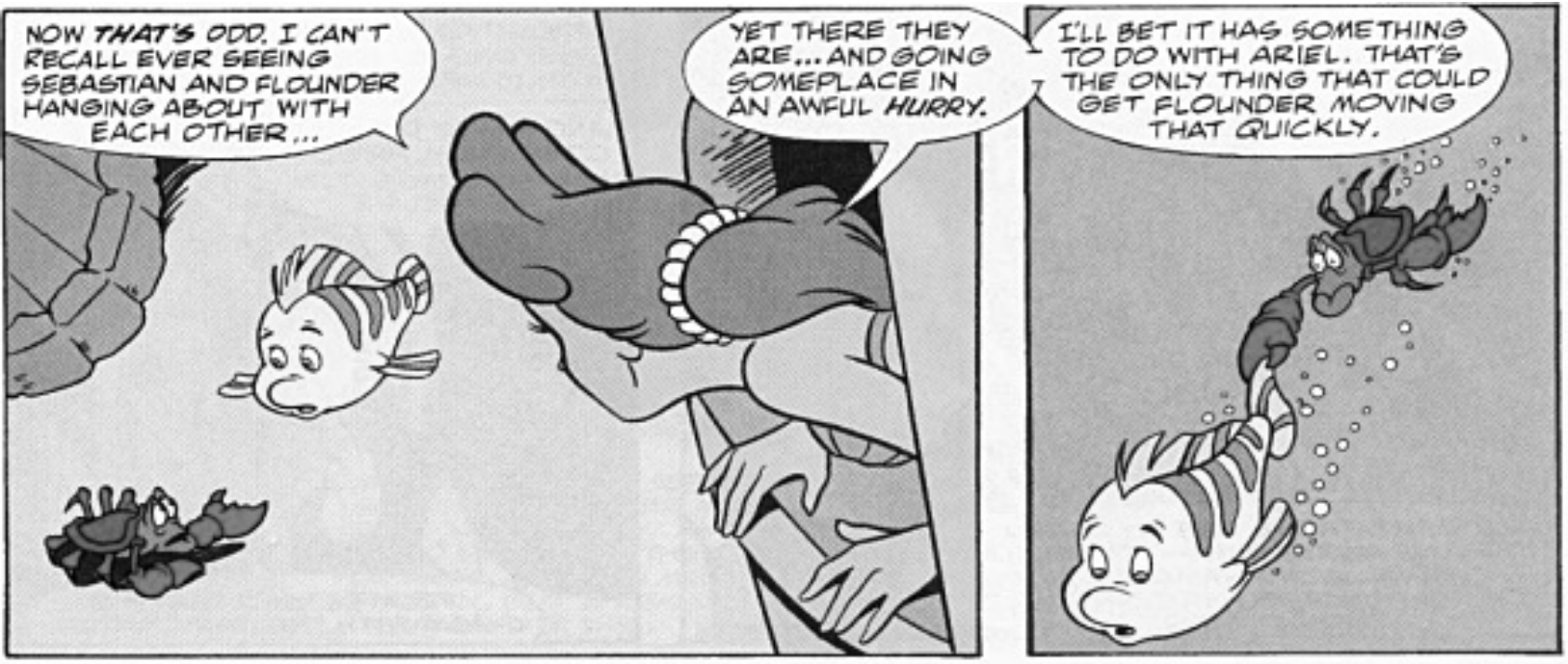

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M MAKING THIS UP?!
NO. YOU LOOK TERRIFIED. OH, MON. I DID NOT NEED DIS.
BREAKING DA LAW. GOING BEYOND DA BOUNDARIES. WHAT DID DAT GIRL T'INK SHE WAS DOING?

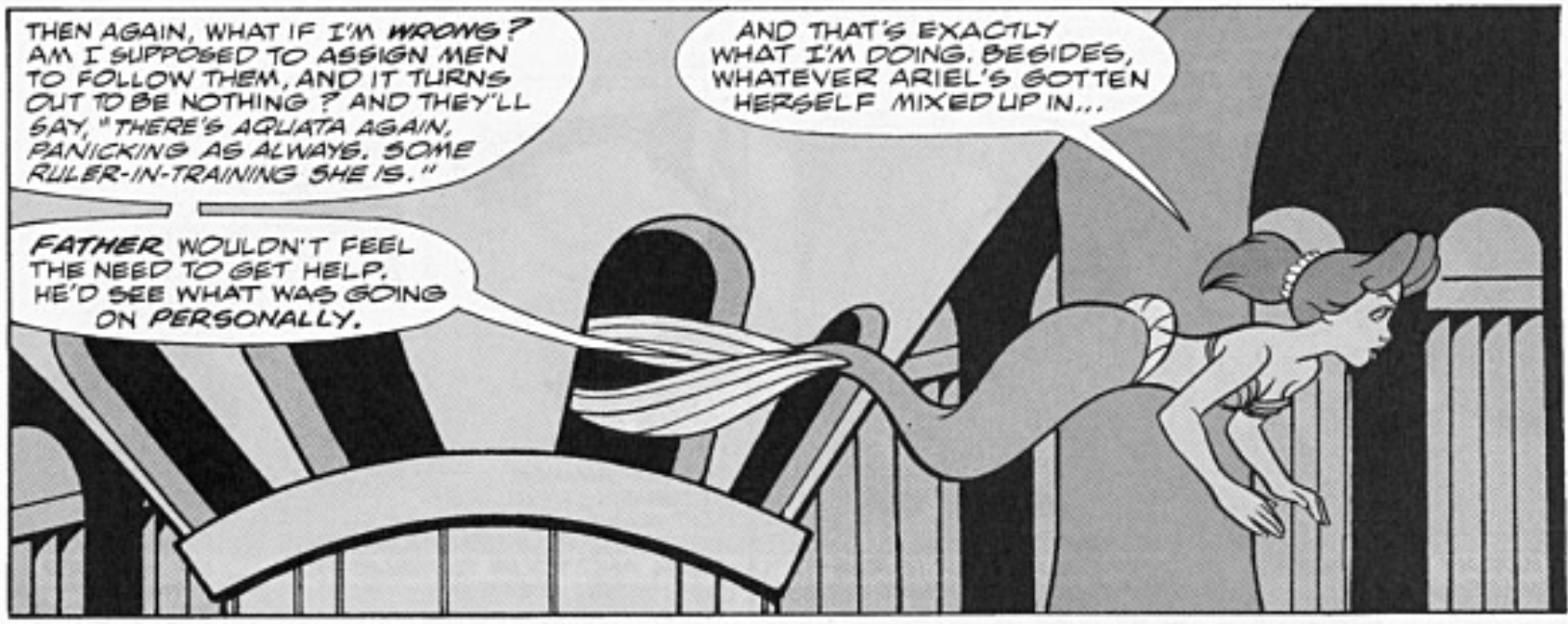

IF HER FATHER FINDS OUT...
OHHH, HE'D BE FURIOUS, AND DAT'S A FACT. I HATE TO ADMIT HOW MUCH I LIKE DAT GIRL... SO BEAUTIFUL, WID A LOVELY VOICE...
IF ONLY SHE USED DA HEAD DAT DA VOICE CAME IN EVERY NOW AND DEN...
SO YOU'LL HELP?

WHY ME? WHY ARE YOU DRAGGING ME INTO DIS?


BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY GROWN-UP I FELT COMFORTABLE GOING TO, SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SMALLER THAN I AM. IF I SAY THAT, YOU'LL JUST GET MAD...
BECAUSE, uh, YOU'RE THE SMARTEST ONE AROUND, SEBASTIAN. AND YOU'RE SO CREATIVE AND EVERYTHING, I FIGURED, IF ANYONE'S GOT THE IMAGINATION TO GET ARIEL OUT OF THIS, IT'S YOU!

DIS IS TRUE.

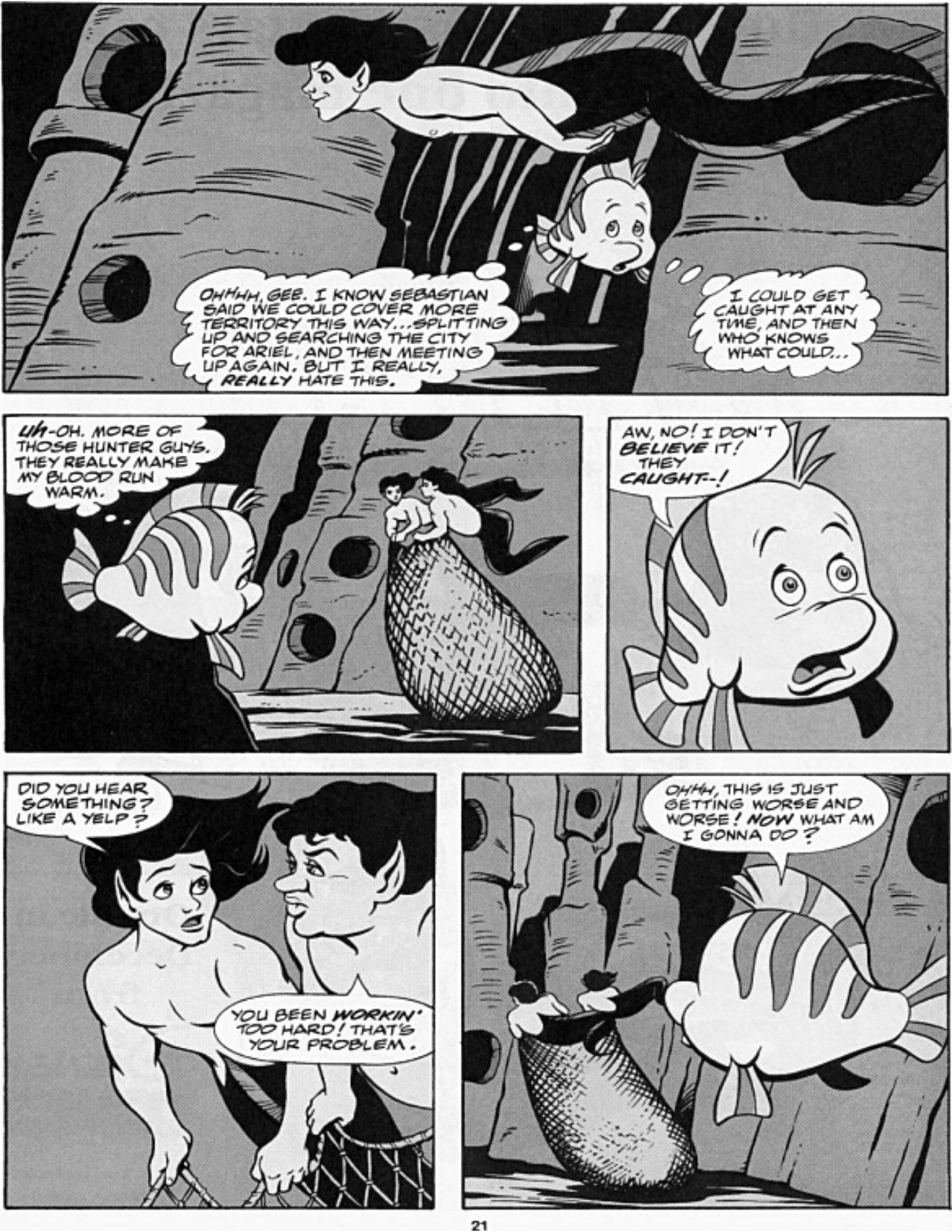

NOW THAT'S ODD. I CAN'T RECALL EVER SEEING SEBASTIAN AND FLOUNDER HANGING ABOUT WITH EACH OTHER...
YET THERE THEY ARE... AND GOING SOMEPLACE IN AN AWFUL HURRY.
I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ARIEL. THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT COULD GET FLOUNDER MOVING THAT QUICKLY.


THEN AGAIN, WHAT IF I'M WRONG? AM I SUPPOSED TO ASSIGN MEN TO FOLLOW THEM, AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING? AND THEY'LL SAY, "THERE'S AQUATA AGAIN, PANICKING AS ALWAYS. SOME RULER-IN-TRAINING SHE IS."
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING. BESIDES, WHATEVER ARIEL'S GOTTEN HERSELF MIXED UP IN...
FATHER WOULDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO GET HELP. HE'D SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON PERSONALLY.

"I'M SURE I CAN GET HER OUT OF IT."

LET ME OUT OF HERE.
YOU SEE, FATHER? I TOLD YOU SHE COULD SPEAK.
INCREDIBLE. JUST INCREDIBLE.
WHO COULD HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE? A CREATURE OF MYTH, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
OF COURSE I CAN!
ALL RIGHT. THESE ARE MY PARENTS, THE KING AND QUEEN--CORNELIUS AND AEMELIA. MY NAME IS CELIA. I'M THE PRINCESS HERE, AND YOUR NEW OWNER.
NOBODY'S MY "OWNER." I'M ARIEL, I BELONG TO MYSELF, AND YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS KEEPING ME PRISONER HERE.
AND WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, ARIEL-WHO-BELONGS-TO-HERSELF?
FROM BEYOND THAT BIG CHASM WITH THE DARK WATER.
YOU'RE LYING! BEYOND THE CHASM IS JUST NOTHINGNESS! EVERY MORAY CHILD KNOWS THAT. THERE'S NO LIFE BEYOND THERE! IT'S DEATH TO EVEN TRY AND GO THERE!
MORAY? WHAT'S A MORAY?
WE ARE THE MORAY. AND MY DAUGHTER IS RIGHT. EVERY CHILD KNOWS THERE'S NO LIFE BEYOND THERE...
AND YET, WE CAN'T DENY THAT HERE YOU ARE. WHICH MEANS THAT THERE MAY INDEED BE MORE TO THE LEGENDARY HORROR STORIES OF HALF-FISH PEOPLE THAN WE CREDITED.
HORROR STORIES--?
OH, YES. SAVAGE, FREAKISH CREATURES THAT MAKE YOUR EYEBALLS MELT AND YOUR BRAIN FREEZE OVER AND YOUR TONGUE FALL OUT. MERE STORIES -- BUT THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT.
SO HOW MANY MORE OF YOU ARE THERE?
IF I TELL THEM ABOUT MY FAMILY... ABOUT MERMAID CITY... WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO?
WE'RE NOT EXPECTING ANY KIND OF INVASION. WE'D GET SLAUGHTERED!
I HATE TO LIE, BUT I'VE GOT TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE.
ACTUALLY... I'M THE ONLY ONE OF MY KIND.
I WAS BORN IN THE SEA. MY MOTHER WAS A DOLPHIN. SHE DIED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG, AND NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT WHERE I CAME FROM. I NEVER KNEW WHO MY FATHER WAS.
YOU MIGHT SAY MY BIRTH WAS...
...SOMETHING OF A FLUKE.


OHHHH, GEE. I KNOW SEBASTIAN SAID WE COULD COVER MORE TERRITORY THIS WAY...SPLITTING UP AND SEARCHING THE CITY FOR ARIEL, AND THEN MEETING UP AGAIN. BUT I REALLY, REALLY HATE THIS.
I COULD GET CAUGHT AT ANY TIME, AND THEN WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD...
UH-OH. MORE OF THOSE HUNTER GUYS. THEY REALLY MAKE MY BLOOD RUN WARM.
AW, NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THEY CAUGHT--!
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING? LIKE A YELP?
YOU BEEN WORKIN' TOO HARD! THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.
OHHH, THIS IS JUST GETTING WORSE AND WORSE! NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

SO, HOW IS MY LATEST PET? ENJOYING YOUR NEW HOME?
WOULD YOU BE UPSET IF I SAID "NO?"
NOT ESPECIALLY.
TOO BAD.

LISTEN TO ME, CELIA. KEEPING ME PRISONER LIKE THIS... IT ISN'T RIGHT! YOU SHOULDN'T KEEP ME PENNED UP.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I'M ENTITLED TO BE FREE!

I CAUGHT YOU, FAIR AND SQUARE. AND I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU WANT, YOU TAKE IT, AND IT'S YOURS.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID IT WASN'T RIGHT! THINKING CREATURES JUST DON'T TREAT EACH OTHER THAT WAY! THERE ARE CERTAIN LAWS OF NATURE, AND...

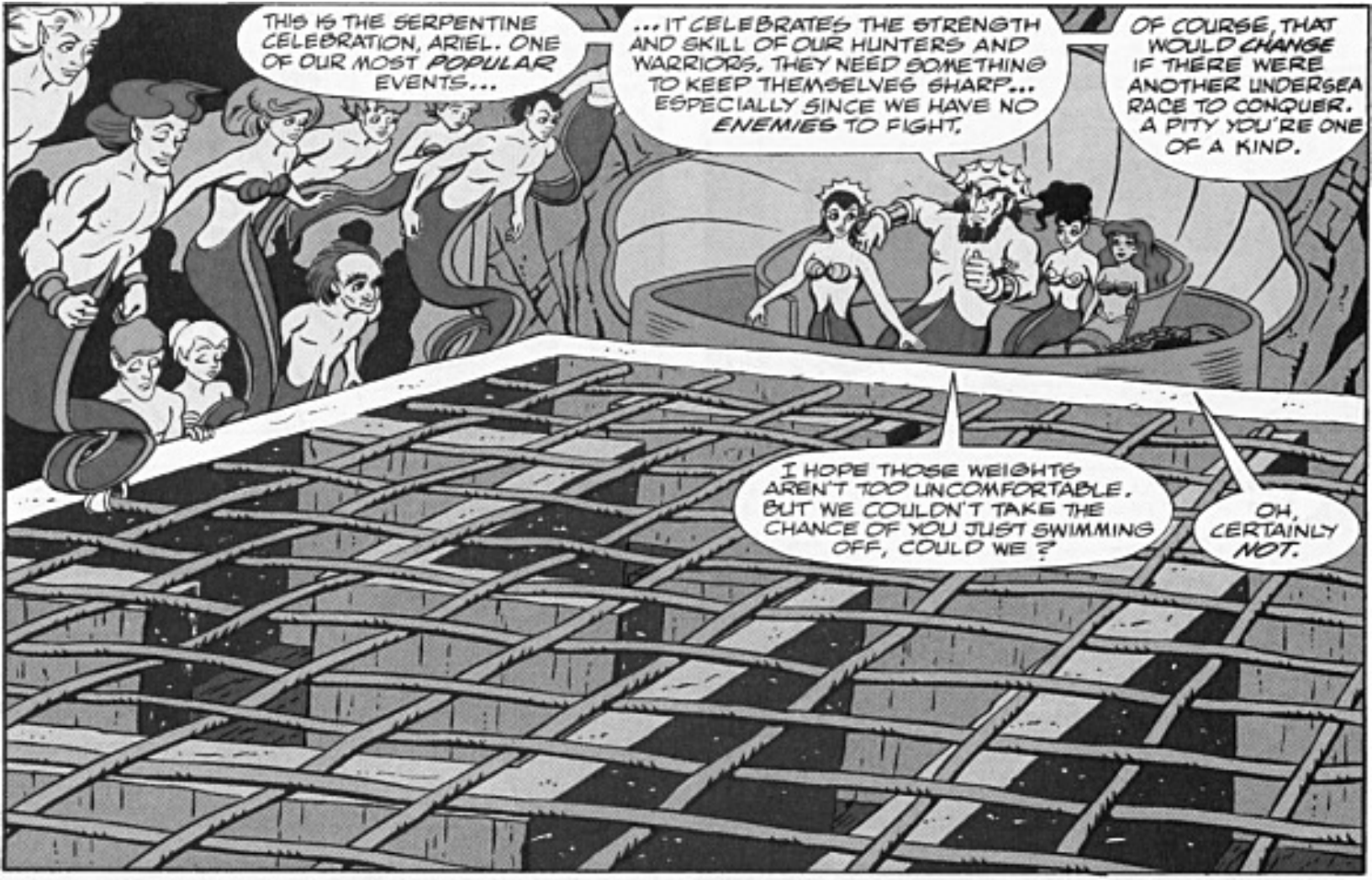
WHAT LAWS? I DIDN'T SEE ANY LAWS WRITTEN DOWN ANYWHERE. AND BESIDES, LAWS ARE JUST WORDS, THAT'S ALL.
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO COME TO MY OWN CONCLUSIONS? WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHETHER THERE'S SOME LAW, REAL OR IMAGINED?
I'M OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE MY OWN LAWS, AND DO WHAT I WANT TO.

ALTHOUGH I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D AGREE WITH THAT.

WHAT ARE YOU SMIRKING ABOUT?
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW FAMILIAR YOUR ATTITUDE SOUNDS.

SO! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF YOUR KIND, eh?
UH... YES. JUST ME. NO ONE ELSE.

HOW INTERESTING.
COME. WE'RE GOING OUT.


THIS IS THE SERPENTINE CELEBRATION, ARIEL. ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR EVENTS...
...IT CELEBRATES THE STRENGTH AND SKILL OF OUR HUNTERS AND WARRIORS. THEY NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP THEMSELVES SHARP... ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE NO ENEMIES TO FIGHT.
OF COURSE, THAT WOULD CHANGE IF THERE WERE ANOTHER UNDERSEA RACE TO CONQUER. A PITY YOU'RE ONE OF A KIND.
I HOPE THOSE WEIGHTS AREN'T TOO UNCOMFORTABLE. BUT WE COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF YOU JUST SWIMMING OFF, COULD WE?
OH, CERTAINLY NOT.

WHAT HAPPENS IS, WE RELEASE OUR BEST HUNTERS INTO THE SERPENTINE MAZE WITH JUST SIMPLE KNIVES, AND THEY HAVE TO HUNT DOWN AND KILL A VERY SPECIAL TYPE OF BEAST THAT WE CAPTURED JUST FOR THE OCCASION. BEFORE THE BEAST KILLS THEM, OF COURSE.
SOUNDS CHARMING.

DOESN'T IT, THOUGH? AND WE HAVE SENTINELS WHO KEEP THE NET HEAVILY ELECTRIFIED SO THAT NO ONE CAN ESCAPE.

THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, SOMETHING HAS JUST COME UP. SO BEFORE WE RELEASE THE HUNTERS, WE'VE DECIDED TO GIVE THE BEAST A BIT OF A SNACK.
AH. THERE'S THE SNACK NOW.

YOU TOLD ME, ARIEL, THAT YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND. YET LOOK WHAT WE CAUGHT. AND I SUSPECT NOW THAT THERE'S A GREAT DEAL MORE OF YOU.
"MOTHER WAS A DOLPHIN," INDEED. YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR LIES MORE CAREFULLY.
NOW, I DON'T NEED BOTH OF YOU. WHAT I DO NEED IS INFORMATION. AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME, ARIEL. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME PRECISELY WHERE YOU COME FROM, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE THERE IS TO KNOW...
...OR OTHERWISE YOUR FRIEND DOWN THERE IS GOING TO BE FISH FOOD.
NEXT: SERPENT TEEN

Under the Sea

Send to:
Disney Comics
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, California 91521-6850

Welcome to the first issue of our **Little Mermaid** limited series. We hope that you'll enjoy these tales of Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, Scuttle and all of our other friends.

What's up in future issues? Well, I don't want to give too much away too soon...let's just say that all of your favorites will be pretty busy in the months ahead.

Writer Peter David will be with us, along with a variety of artists, such as Bill Fugate (who has drawn for **Roger Rabbit's Toontown** and **Mickey Mouse Adventures**); Mark Marderosian, who drew this issue's centerspread; newcomer Scott Benefiel; and Disney animator Dan Gracey. Dave Hunt will be along for the inks.

Our covers will come from such stars as Steve Rude (of *Nexus* and other fine comics) and Philo Barnhart, one of the original designers and animators of Ariel.

Of course, there's someone else whom we'll need on this journey: you. Write to us. Let us know what you like. We'll pay attention.

Since we don't have any letters yet, we'll present a behind-the-scenes treat: an analysis of Ariel given to Disney artists by directing animator Glen Keane. It's dated October 20, 1988, when *The Little Mermaid* was in production.

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Ariel

The youngest of seven daughters, Ariel is sixteen years old.

Of the seven, she is the quirky one. Her sisters conform to their roles as princesses and take themselves more seriously than Ariel. Ariel thinks for herself and is independent, impulsive and curious about everything (particularly things dealing with the surface). She does not think things through logically but is motivated by her feelings and emotions.

Ariel is a typical teenage girl with a sense of adventure and romance. She longs to be free of the restrictions set upon her by her environment and by Triton, her father.

She loves her father, and he loves her. He wants what is best for her but does not relate to how she feels. Ariel is Triton's biggest headache but also occupies the place closest to this heart. There is actually a lot of Triton in Ariel. They are both headstrong and act with deep conviction.

Ariel is not passive. She makes things happen. She goes 100 percent in whatever direction she decides. She is uninhibited.

Ariel's fiery side, red hair and all, is balanced by her sweetness. She is naive and innocent, making her vulnerable to the evil intentions of Ursula. She is open to being hurt deeply and is hurt by her father as he destroys her collection and by Ursula as she destroys Ariel's hope of true love and remaining human.

These qualities are all inner. On the outside, Ariel has a sweet beauty. Her face is pretty, leaning to the cute side rather than the glamorous side.

She is sexy in an innocent way, unaware of her natural beauty and appeal. When she moves, there should be an inherent grace and vitality.

She is petite but not frail. Her spontaneous, impulsive personality comes through in her actions.

When animating Ariel, pay close attention to who it is you're animating. Ask yourself:

* Am I animating Ariel in this scene, or could this be any girl?
* How would Ariel do this action?
* How does Ariel feel? What is she thinking?
* What is uniquely Ariel in the way I'm animating her?

Some further notes on animating Ariel:

Fluidity is a key word in how she moves. Her actions are not jerky and stiff but rhythmic and fluid.

Keeping a clear line of action in her pose will help.

Her timing should reflect her impulsive personality. Snappy timing in a head turn or fin swish will give her a brighter, more perky feel.

• • •

Next issue

It's the conclusion of this issue's adventure, as Triton and Ursula confront the Moray, Ariel faces the Serpentine, and Sebastian and Flounder try not to get killed! From Peter David, Bill Fugate and Lea Hernandez comes "Serpent Teen." Plus a short Sebastian story by Peter David and Dan Gracey.

It's all on sale in January under a cover by Steve Rude.

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Credits

"The Little Mermaid"
Written by **Peter David**
Penciled by **Chuck Austen**
Finished and inked by **Lea Hernandez** and **Dave Hunt**
Lettered by **Gaspar Saladino**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Mini-poster
Penciled by **Mark Marderosian**
Inked by **Gary Martin**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Cover
Penciled by **Dave Pacheco**
Inked by **Brian Garvey**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Special thanks to **Philo Barnhart** and **Dave Pacheco** for character keying.